



Date: December 17, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine D. Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending December 17, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending December 17, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

The Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force met on December 13 at California Recreation Park. Chair Michael Gillette, Vice Chair Marc Rothenberg and Deputy City Manager Reginald Harrison respectively summarized the Task Force's accomplishments since its inception in May.

Fire Department

The Fire Department conducted a graduation ceremony for its 21 graduates on December 11 at the Fire Training Center. The 14-week academy included specialized training in fire fighting skills, emergency medicine, search and rescue techniques, hazardous materials and a number of other subjects to meet the State "Firefighter I" certification requirements. The graduation ceremony included displays of antique firefighting equipment and a special musical presentation by the Stephens Middle School band. Firefighter Kory Knapp was selected as the "Recruit of the Class" by his peers for exhibiting a high level of leadership, drive and proficiency of skills.

Public Works Department - Airport

On December 8, the Airport Bureau conducted its annual Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandated Table Top Exercise at the Emergency Communications and Operating Center. Approximately 20 people, including representatives from FAA, the airlines, LBPD, LBFD, FBI and Airport staff, attended the exercise. The goal was to ensure that responders are familiar with their roles in the event of a major catastrophic incident at the Airport. The Exercise's scenario was a commercial air carrier crashing at the intersection of Runway 30 and Runway 25L.

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MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

Escrow closed on the construction financing for the Jamboree West Gateway Apartments on December 13. The project consists of a four-story 64-unit apartment building affordable to low-income families, and is located on Site No. 1 of the West Gateway development area. Funding for the project consists of an affordable housing loan from the Long Beach Housing Development Company, Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds and a Multifamily Housing Program loan from the State Department of Housing and Community Development. Demolition of the existing structures is scheduled to begin in February 2005, with construction to follow.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The first public input meeting for the second phase of the DeForest and Dominguez Gap wetland restoration and nature trail was held at Houghton Park. This phase includes the construction design and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Public circulation of the EIR is expected in the fall of 2005. In 2000 and 2001, meetings were held to help evaluate options to determine if such restorations were feasible. The positive results from those studies led to this current phase.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Fire

The "Spark of Love" Christmas Drive will be in high gear until Christmas Eve. Toys have been arriving from citywide collection points, including Sav-on Drugs, at the Fire Department warehouse. Next week volunteers, both Firefighters and civilians, will donate time to sort and package toys in preparation for delivery to the fire stations for further delivery to needy children throughout Long Beach. Individuals who would like to volunteer can call 570-LBFD.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Over 160 participants from Chavez, College Estates, Silverado, Stearns Champions, Houghton, Heartwell, El Dorado West, Veterans and Whaley Park will attend the *Yes Clinic* at The Pyramid at California State University, Long Beach on **December 18**. The participants will receive hands-on instruction from NCAA coaches and student-athletes as part of their youth outreach across the country.

On **December 18**, Silverado Park, in collaboration with the American Red Cross, will have its Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Over 300 participants are expected to attend the event.

Winter Fun Days will be held **December 27-31** at all 21 supervised parks throughout the city. Park hours will be extended and youth can participate in six hours of programs and activities. Also Winter Day Camps will be offered at Stearns Champions Park, and Martin Luther King Park, where they will offer holiday themed activities during winter break. Call 570-3156.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Public Works Department, Environmental Services

The Environmental Services Bureau will be providing Christmas tree recycling services again this year. From December 26 - January 7, residents can drop off trees at the following locations:

Bixby Park - 1st St. at Cherry Ave.

Cesar E. Chavez Park - Golden Shore St. at 4th St.

Houghton Park - Myrtle Ave. at Harding St.

Hudson Park - Hill St. at Webster Ave.

Stearns Park - corner of 23rd St. and Roycroft Ave.

Veterans Park - 28th St. at Pine Ave.

Wardlow Park - Monlaco Rd. at Rutgers Ave.

CSULB Recycling Center - 5800 Atherton Blvd.

North Police Substation - 4891 Atlantic Ave. at Del Amo Blvd.

Fire Station #14 - 5200 Eliot St. at Colorado Ave.

City Operations Center - Environmental Services Bureau, 2929 E. Willow St.

Drop off times at these locations are between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays or 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on weekends.

Residents with City refuse collection service may have their tree collected from their home on Saturday, January 8. Trees should be set out for collection by 7:00 a.m. Trees should not be left out for collection prior to that date.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

Nearly 100 neighbors attended a follow-up community meeting regarding the murder of Lynn Shockner at Longfellow Elementary School. Commander McCoy and Homicide Detail Detectives provided additional information to residents regarding the arrest of suspects.

After noticing an increase in daytime residential burglaries, North Division officers coordinated a Burglary/Truancy Task Force. The operation was designed to provide a proactive and suppressive presence within the impacted areas, allowing for a rapid and effective response to crimes in progress. During the operation, officers made 27 felony and 67 misdemeanor arrests (13 truants), issued 110 traffic and 30 parking citations, towed 43 vehicles, conducted 285 field interviews, and filed 99 reports.

Motor officers conducted a citywide traffic warrant arrest operation. Drivers who fail to appear in court on a traffic citation are issued arrest warrants by Superior Court judges. Eighty warrants were served to locations in Long Beach and 20 arrests were made. This operation was made possible with grant funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

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PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Police

Youth Services Detectives continued their efforts to impact the incidences of nighttime loitering by juveniles by conducting a loitering sweep in the South Division. The focus areas were south of Anaheim Street between the Los Angeles River and Long Beach Boulevard, and the area between 7th Street and Anaheim Street and Long Beach Boulevard and Cherry Avenue. A total of 29 citations were issued for a variety of loitering violations.

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,068 emergency calls for service: 110 calls for fires of which 19 involved structures. It also responded to 683 emergency medical calls, 466 requiring paramedics.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Parks Recreation and Maine

A mural dedication of the Northwest Passage was held on December 11 at 67th Street and Orizaba Ave. The three lead artists, Art Mortimer, Steve Elicker, and Lesa Neal, and the 13 youth assistants were honored for their work. Approximately 75 people attended.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

Because of her work with in the Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area, staff from the Neighborhood Services Bureau nominated Mrs. Kerry O'Keefe for the 2005 Manager of the Year Award from the Apartment Association of California Southern Cities. Ms. O'Keefe won the award for the significant improvements she made as manager of the apartments located at 631 Almond Avenue, and is very active in working to improve the entire neighborhood.

Staff was recognized by the Central Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area for their valuable support of the community's efforts to strengthen the Central Neighborhood area at a December 8 Central Neighborhood community meeting.

Community Development and Library Services

On December 10, there was a special graduation ceremony at the Main Library to honor families from the Willmore Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area for completing the 12-week Partner's in Print Program. This program teaches Spanish speaking parents about reading to their children and how to help them with their homework. This project is a partnership with the Neighborhood Services Bureau, Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the Long Beach Unified School District.

Public Works Department – Airport

The Long Beach Airport hosted two tours this month: Cabrillo High School on December 3 and Unlimited Quest of Long Beach on December 9. During calendar year 2004, there were a total to 37 tours conducted for 990 people.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

American Golf is continuing significant course improvements as part of its commitment to maintain City courses at the high standards required by the City lease. At Recreation Park 9 Golf Course the interior of the clubhouse, pro shop, and coffee shop were painted and new carpet was installed. The exterior was painted several months ago.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

At Whaley Park, the accessibility improvements at the playground were completed with the installation of the rubberized play surfacing under the equipment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau, Workforce Development

Big Saver Foods held its grand opening at 1500 West Willow Avenue on December 15. The Workforce Development Bureau assisted in the processing of job applicants. Long Beach residents filled 17 of the 35 positions.

Community Development, Economic Development Bureau

One month within its launch on November 4, the www.HipisHere.com website has received over 70,468 hits. The website is a component of the Shop Small...Hip is Here Campaign - a neighborhood small business awareness campaign designed to encourage residents to shop and dine at their neighborhood small businesses, and to also remind residents that money spent in the City stays in the City.

Staff fielded an exhibit at the 2004 Governor's Conference on Women and Families on December 7. Staff provided general information on the City and promoted the City's business development programs and services for small businesses. There were approximately 10,000 attendees at the one-day event.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Daisy Lane Christmas Parade, with an estimated attendance of 20,000, was held on December 11.

The *Lone Sailor* Memorial unveiling, with an estimated attendance of 400, was held on December 11 at Bluff Park.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On December 11, the Nature Center's Simple Saturday program provided visitors with free "recycled" books from Friends of the Library, a chance to recycle their cell phones, and information on other recycling projects that go beyond paper, cans, and glass that is provided curbside in Long Beach. More than 500 people participated in the monthly event that highlights sustainable, easily accomplished practices.

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SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On December 12, volunteers and staff participated in the Christmas Open House at Rancho Los Cerritos. For children there were two piñatas, dramatic storytelling, and the opportunity to make a half dozen old-fashioned crafts. The Museum's membership and volunteer support group, Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos, underwrote this free event. Approximately 634 guests and another 87 musicians attended.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 3,889 service calls, including 970 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 671 Turn Off orders. There were 2,074 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 174-meter maintenance and billing-related orders, as well as 191 customer emergency orders were completed.

GRM:kp
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Cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
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